

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#4/A
1-4-02
M.L.

In re U.S. Patent Application of)
Mark Robert WATKINS *et al.*)
Application Number: To be Assigned)
Filed Concurrently Herewith)
For: UTILIZATION OF UNUSED DISK SPACE ON)
NETWORKED COMPUTERS)

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the below claims as follows:

1. (Amended.) A network of computers comprising:

a plurality of individual computer devices each having a non-volatile data storage device and each having means for communicating with at least one other one of said plurality of computers;

each said non-volatile data storage device being divided into a first data storage area reserved for use by the corresponding computer device, and a second data storage area reserved for backup storage of data contained in at least one said first data storage area of at least one other said non-volatile data storage device;

wherein each said individual computer device has a specific set of memory locations reserved on a said second data storage area of another of said non-volatile data storage devices in the network.

RECEIVED: DECEMBER 10 2002

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